" Done! " said Charles Reade. " I'll give you that, and more, if you'll come and play Philippa Chester in ' The Wandering Heir.' "

He went on to explain that Mrs. John Wood, who had been playing Philippa at the New Queen's, of which he was the lessee, would have to relinquish the part soon, because she was under contract to appear elsewhere. The piece was a great success, and promised to run a long time if he could find a good Philippa to replace Mrs. Wood. It was a kind of Rosalind part, and Charles Reade only exaggerated pardonably when he said that I should never have any part better suited to me!

In a very short time after that meeting in the lane, it was announced that the new Philippa was to be an actress who was returning to the stage " after a long period of retirement." Only just before the first night did any one guess *who it* was, and then there was great excitement among those who remembered me. The acclamation with which I was welcomed back on the first night surprised me. The papers were more flattering thaji they had ever been before. It was a tremendous success for me, and I was all the more pleased because I was following an accomplished actress in the part.

It is curious how often I have " followed " others* I never " created " a part, as theatrical parlance has it, until I played Olivia at the Court, and I had to challenge com- parison, in turn, with Miss Marie Wilton, Mrs. John Wood and Mrs. Kendal. Perhaps it was better for

me than if I had had parts specially written for me, and with which no other names were associated.

The hero of " The Wandering Heir," when I first took up the part of Philippa, was played by Edmund Leathes[4] but afterward by Johnstone Forbes-Robertson. Every one knows how good-looking he is now, but as a boy he was